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ABSTRACT

This report provides an overview of infant mortality rates in congressional districts represented by members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC). The 1989 or 1990 mortality rates for Blacks and Whites for the 25 districts represented by CBC members are presented, as well as rates for the overall population. An appendix provides data on Black, White, and overall mortality rates in the United States from 1970 through 1989, and infant mortality, low birth weight, and prenatal care by race and state for 1989. The report notes that in 1989, the infant mortality rate among Blacks was 17.7 per 1,000 live births, while the rate for Whites was 8.2. Whereas infant mortality rates for both Blacks and Whites have dropped by 50 percent since 1970, the ratio between the 2 rates has remained unchanged. (MDM)

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INFANT MORTALITY :
DISTRICT PROFILES
FOR THE
CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS
102ND CONGRESS

National
Commission
to Prevent
Infant Mortality

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INFANT MORTALITY :
DISTRICT PROFILES
FOR THE
CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS
102ND CONGRESS

report for the

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

The Honorable Edolphus Towns
Chairman

July 17, 1992

prepared by the

National Commission To Prevent Infant Mortality

Washington, D.C.

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PROFILES OF DISTRICTS

FOR THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

102ND CONGRESS

INTRODUCTION

Our nation's mothers and children are in trouble. In 1989, the United States, with an infant mortality rate of 9.8, ranked behind 21 other nations in the number of babies who died in their first year of life. (the infant mortality rate equals the number of infant deaths in the first year of life per 1,000 live births).

In the United States, rates of infant mortality vary widely among racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups. Rates for African Americas and the poor are much worse than our national average, ranking along with those found in Hungary, Bulgaria and Costa Rica. Historically the gap between the African American and white rates of infant mortality has been large -- and it remains so. African American babies die at more than twice the rate of whites. In 1989 the infant mortality rate among African Americans was 17.7, while the rate for whites was 8.2

The National Commission to Prevent Infant Mortality was established by Congress in 1987 to create a national strategic plan to reduce infant mortality and morbidity in the United States. The sixteen-member Commission includes Members of Congress, the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Comptroller General of the United States, representatives of state government, and experts in the field of maternal and child health. Knowing that many, if not most, of the answers to how to promote the health of mothers and children have existed for decades, the Commission chose to focus on practical solutions at the federal, state and local levels for improving the health and well-being of mothers and children, rather than create a new body of research.

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Among its many projects, the Commission has recently developed the National Consortium for African American Children. The Consortium's Steering Committee includes members of Congress, experts in health and social policy, education and media relations. Its mission is to improve the general health and well-being of African American children by advocating change in public policies and programs. Issues include health, education, socioeconomic empowerment, media influence and spiritual/character development. The first issue the Consortium will address is infant mortality.

The following information has been prepared for the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) by the National Commission to Prevent Infant Mortality. It provides an overview of infant mortality rates in the districts represented by CBC members.

INFANT MORTALITY RATES*

CALIFORNIA

Rep. Ronald Dellums (8th District) - Alameda, Contra Costa and Los Angeles Counties
Rep. Julian Dixon (28th District) - Los Angeles County
Rep. Mervyn Dymally (31st District) - Los Angeles County
Rep. Maxine Waters (29th District) - Los Angeles County

		Total	Black	White
California	**1989**	**8.5**	**19.3**	**7.7**
Alameda County	1989	7.8	15.9	5.8
	1990	8.8	17.5	6.8
Contra Costa County	1989	7.1	12.3	6.7
	1990	6.4	11.1	5.8
Los Angeles County	1989	9.2	21.3	7.8
	1990	8.0	16.0	7.3

CONNECTICUT

Rep. Gary Frank (5th District) - New Haven and Fairfield Counties
(rates only available for 1989 and for selected cities)

		Total	Black	White
Connecticut	**1989**	**8.8**	**20.2**	**7.1**
Anasonia	1989	9.9	N/A	N/A
Danbury	1989	7.0	9.4	N/A
Meriden	1989	6.8	12.5	N/A
New Haven	1989	18.4	24.9	N/A
Waterbury	1989	10.4	17.2	N/A

N/A rate not available
* The infant mortality rate is the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births. All states' infant mortality rates are for 1989 because 1990 rates are not available.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Rep. Eleanor Holmes-Norton (DC)

		Total	Black	White
District of Columbia	1989	22.9	26.5	14.4
	1990	20.1	24.1	8.9

GEORGIA

Rep. John Lewis (5th District)

		Total	Black	White
Georgia	**1989**	**12.3**	**18.4**	**9.0**
Clayton County	1989	12.6	17.6	11.0
	1990	14.2	19.7	11.8
Cobb County	1989	10.9	20.9	9.3
	1990	9.5	18.2	7.8
De Kalb County	1989	12.0	15.2	8.0
	1990	12.9	15.0	9.5
Fulton County	1989	14.5	18.3	7.6
	1990	14.5	18.7	7.3

ILLINOIS

Rep. Cardis Collins (7th District)
Rep. Charles Hayes (1st District)
Rep. Gus Savage (2nd District)

		Total	Black	White
Illinois	**1989**	**11.7**	**21.4**	**9.1**
Cook County	1989	9.4	20.5	8.0
	1990	9.5	19.5	7.9

LOUISIANA

Rep. William Jefferson (2nd District)

		Total	Black	White
Louisiana	**1989**	**11.4**	**16.0**	**8.5**
Jefferson Parish	1989	10.3	25.2	9.8
	1990	7.2	9.9	6.2
Orleans Parish	1989	15.0	15.6	14.5
	1990	16.2	19.2	6.5

MARYLAND

Rep. Kweisi Mfume (7th District)

		Total	Black	White
Maryland	**1989**	**10.3**	**15.9**	**8.1**
Baltimore County	1989	10.0	15.0	9.2
Baltimore City	1989	14.1	17.2	7.7

1990 rates not available

MICHIGAN

Rep. Barbara-Rose Collins (13th District)

		Total	Black	White
Michigan	**1989**	**11.1**	**22.5**	**8.2**
Detroit	1989	21.3	23.8	10.9
	1990	20.4	23.0	8.7

Michigan Con't

Rep. John Conyers (1st District)

		Total	Black	White
Wayne County	1989	16.1	23.1	8.7
	1990	16.2	23.1	7.7

MISSOURI

Alan Wheat (5th District)

		Total	Black	White
Missouri	**1989**	**9.9**	**17.4**	**8.5**
Jackson County	1989	11.0	17.8	8.1
	1990	10.2	17.8	7.2

MISSISSIPPI

Rep. Mike Espy (2nd District)

		Total *	Non-White ** *	White *
Mississippi	**1989**	**11.6**	**14.9**	**8.6**
Attala County	1989	12.5 (4)	16.2 (3)	7.4 (1)
	1990	10.0 (3)	18.1 (3)	-- (0)
Bolivar County	1989	15.0	16.2	10.8 (2)
	1990	18.9	22.1	6.2 (1)
Carroll County	1989	8.5 (1)	15.6 (1)	-- (0)
	1990	19.8 (2)	32.8 (2)	-- (0)
Claiborne County	1989	11.6 (2)	13.1 (2)	-- (0)
	1990	14.1 (3)	15.3 (3)	-- (0)

* When infant mortality rate is based on fewer than 10 deaths, number of deaths is indicated in parentheses.

** Information for African Americans is not available as a category.

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Mississippi Con't

		Total *	Non-** White *	White *
Coahoma County	1989	17.4	21.8	-- (0)
	1990	12.5 (8)	15.7 (8)	-- (0)
Grenada County	1989	13.1 (5)	22.4 (5)	-- (0)
	1990	7.0 (3)	12.3 (3)	-- (0)
Hinds County	1989	9.9	10.5	8.7
	1990	12.8	15.8	6.7
Holmes County	1989	17.6 (8)	20.1 (8)	-- (0)
	1990	9.5 (4)	10.8 (4)	-- (0)
Humphrey's County	1989	12.3 (3)	9.6 (2)	28.6 (1)
	1990	27.1 (7)	36.0 (7)	-- (0)
Issaquena County	1989	-- (0)	-- (0)	-- (0)
	1990	-- (0)	-- (0)	-- (0)
Jefferson County	1989	6.3 (1)	7.0 (1)	-- (0)
	1990	7.4 (1)	8.3 (1)	-- (0)
Le Flore County	1989	15.1	14.8 (8)	15.9 (3)
	1990	15.9	17.9	10.2 (2)
Madison County	1989	12.4	9.2 (5)	15.9 (8)
	1990	14.3	20.6	7.8 (4)
Panola County	1989	7.3 (4)	8.9 (3)	4.8 (1)
	1990	3.6 (2)	3.0 (1)	4.6 (1)
Quitman County	1989	9.3 (2)	12.6 (2)	-- (0)
	1990	18.1 (4)	12.3 (20	35.1 (2)
Sharkey County	1989	6.4 (1)	7.3 (1)	-- (0)
	1990	22.2 (3)	19.0 (2)	33.3 (1)
Sunflower County	1989	22.1	20.2	29.8 (4)
	1990	16.8	21.0	-- (0)
Tallahatchie County	1989	18.9 (6)	21.8 (5)	11.4 (1)
	1990	16.3 (5)	17.4 (4)	13.2 (1)
Tunica County	1989	20.9 (4)	18.6 (3)	33.3 (1)
	1990	-- (0)	-- (0)	-- (0)
Warren County	1989	2.5 (2)	4.8 (2)	-- (0)
	1990	12.4	10.6 (6)	14.0 (4)

Mississippi Con't

		Total *	Non-** White *	White *
Washington County	1989	12.7	12.4	13.3 (5)
	1990	12.8	17.0 (1)	2.6
Yazoo County	1989	13.1 (6)	19.2 (6)	-- (0)
	1990	14.1 (7)	14.6 (5)	13.0 (2)

NEW JERSEY

Rep. Donald Payne (10th District)

		Total	Black	White
New Jersey	**1989**	**9.3**	**19.3**	**7.0**
Essex County	1989	14.5	21.4	7.5
Hudson County	1989	9.0	14.8	7.2
Union County	1989	8.5	14.1	6.9

1990 rates not available

NEW YORK

Rep. Major Owens (12th District)
Rep. Edolphus Towns (11th District)

		Total	Black	White
New York	**1989**	**10.6**	**19.0**	**8.5**
Brooklyn	1989	15.0	17.3	9.5
	1990	13.3	16.2	6.7

New York Con't

Rep. Charles Rangel (16th District)

		Total	Black	White
Manhattan	1989	12.4	14.0	8.2
	1990	10.4	16.4	4.5

Rep. Floyd Flake (6th District)

		Total	Black	White
Queens	1989	10.4	14.1	7.3
	1990	8.9	12.4	7.0

OHIO

Rep. Louis Stokes (21st District)

		Total	Black	White
Ohio	1989	9.9	18.7	8.4
Cleveland	1989	12.5	19.4	8.8
	1990	16.3	19.5	12.5
Cuyahoga County	1989	14.1	22.5	9.3
	1990	17.9	22.9	11.4

PENNSYLVANIA

Rep. Lucien Blackwell (2nd District)

		Total	Black	White
Pennsylvania	1989	10.2	23.0	7.9
Philadelphia	1989	17.7	22.6	11.2
	1990	16.0	22.1	7.9

TENNESSEE

Rep. Harold Ford (9th District)

		Total	Other Races	White
Tennessee	**1989**	**10.8**	**18.8**	**8.3**
Shelby County	1989	14.6	19.3	8.1
	1990	14.4	19.7	6.8

* Information for African Americans is not available as a separate category.

TEXAS

Rep. Craig A. Washington (18th District)

		Total	Black	White
Texas	**1989**	**9.2**	**16.9**	**7.9**
Harris County	1989	9.8	17.2	7.7
	1990	8.6	16.3	6.4

APPENDIX

U.S. INFANT MORTALITY RATE BY RACE, 1970-1989

	IM Rate Total	IM Rate White	IM Rate Black
1970	20.0	17.8	32.6
1971	19.1	17.1	30.3
1972	18.5	16.4	29.6
1973	17.7	15.8	28.1
1974	16.7	14.8	26.8
1975	16.1	14.2	26.2
1976	15.2	13.3	25.5
1977	14.1	12.3	23.6
1978	13.8	12.0	23.1
1979	13.1	11.4	21.8
1980	12.6	11.0	21.4
1981	11.9	10.5	20.0
1982	11.5	10.1	19.6
1983	11.2	9.7	19.2
1984	10.8	9.4	18.4
1985	10.6	9.3	18.2
1986	10.4	8.9	18.0
1987	10.1	8.6	17.9
1988	10.0	8.5	17.6
1989	9.8	8.2	17.7

Source: National Center for Health Statistics. The infant mortality rate is the number of infant deaths per thousand live births.

INFANT MORTALITY, LOW BIRTHWEIGHT AND PRENATAL CARE, BY STATE, 1989

Rank	State	Infant Mortality (per 1,000 live births)			Low Birthweight (percent)			Early Prenatal Care (percent)		
		All	White	African American	All	White	African American	All	White	African American
1	Vermont	6.9	7.0	*	5.5	5.4	**	81.0	81.2	61.5
2	Minnesota	7.1	6.3	22.4	4.9	4.5	13.3	80.8	83.6	51.4
3	Maine	7.4	7.2	*	4.9	4.9	**	82.6	82.5	82.0
4	Massachusetts	7.7	6.9	16.5	5.9	5.3	11.0	82.7	85.5	61.2
5	Nebraska	7.9	7.0	18.8	5.8	5.2	14.0	83.1	84.6	66.8
6	New Hampshire	8.0	8.0	*	5.1	5.1	**	84.6	84.7	63.8
6	North Dakota	8.0	7.3	*	5.0	4.9	**	82.5	84.6	78.3
6	Utah	8.0	7.6	*	5.7	5.6	14.5	84.1	85.3	72.1
9	Nevada	8.1	7.2	19.1	7.2	6.3	15.7	71.0	72.9	53.7
10	Hawaii	8.3	4.7	*	7.1	5.6	10.9	75.4	81.6	73.8
10	Iowa	8.3	7.8	21.8	5.4	5.3	11.0	85.2	85.8	66.1
12	California	8.5	7.7	19.3	6.1	5.3	13.7	72.6	72.7	67.0
12	Oklahoma	8.5	7.8	13.8	6.5	5.9	11.7	72.4	75.8	57.0
12	New Mexico	8.5	7.7	*	7.0	6.9	11.5	57.4	59.5	47.8
15	Colorado	8.7	8.4	16.3	7.8	7.4	14.2	76.3	77.4	62.3
16	Connecticut	8.8	7.1	20.2	6.9	5.7	14.6	83.5	86.5	63.0
16	Kansas	8.8	8.1	16.0	6.1	5.5	12.9	80.5	82.4	64.8
18	Oregon	8.9	8.6	24.3	5.2	5.0	12.5	75.1	75.7	61.6
19	Wisconsin	9.1	8.2	16.8	5.8	4.8	14.1	81.6	85.0	66.9
20	Alaska	9.2	6.8	*	4.9	4.5	8.7	81.5	84.4	81.9
20	Arizona	9.2	8.6	21.7	6.3	6.1	14.0	65.5	67.7	56.2
20	Kentucky	9.2	8.3	18.0	6.9	6.3	11.9	76.8	78.2	63.6
20	Texas	9.2	7.9	16.9	7.0	6.0	13.1	66.9	68.5	56.1
20	Washington	9.2	8.6	21.7	5.6	5.3	12.5	76.8	78.5	60.3
25	New Jersey	9.3	7.0	19.3	7.3	5.6	13.9	79.4	84.4	59.2
26	West Virginia	9.4	9.3	*	6.6	6.4	13.8	73.7	74.4	54.5
26	Wyoming	9.4	9.6	*	7.3	7.2	**	79.7	80.4	66.2
28	South Dakota	9.6	7.0	*	5.4	5.1	**	78.0	82.1	63.9
29	Idaho	9.7	9.4	*	5.5	5.5	**	73.6	74.0	77.1
30	Florida	9.8	7.9	16.4	7.7	6.0	13.0	70.9	76.3	53.4
31	Missouri	9.9	8.5	17.4	6.9	5.7	13.1	78.4	82.0	60.9
31	Ohio	9.9	8.4	18.7	7.0	5.9	13.6	81.6	84.4	65.9

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Rank	State	Infant Mortality			Low Birthweight			Early Prenatal Care		
		All	White	African American	All	White	African American	All	White	African American
33	Virginia	10.0	7.3	18.7	7.1	5.4	12.3	79.6	84.6	64.7
34	Arkansas	10.2	8.4	16.2	8.3	6.6	13.8	70.7	75.7	54.0
34	Indiana	10.2	9.1	19.8	6.6	5.9	12.7	78.6	80.5	62.6
34	Pennsylvania	10.2	7.9	23.0	7.1	5.7	14.9	79.0	83.8	52.3
34	Rhode Island	10.2	9.8	18.2	6.2	5.6	12.0	84.1	86.6	64.5
38	Maryland	10.3	8.1	15.9	8.0	5.8	13.1	82.6	88.5	69.4
39	New York	10.6	8.5	19.0	7.7	6.0	13.7	73.5	79.1	54.2
40	Tennessee	10.8	8.3	18.8	8.2	6.5	13.7	76.4	79.9	65.5
41	Michigan	11.1	8.2	22.5	7.6	5.6	15.4	79.1	83.0	64.3
42	Montana	11.3	9.6	*	5.5	5.4	**	77.2	79.7	88.2
42	North Carolina	11.3	8.5	17.9	8.1	6.0	13.0	75.7	83.0	59.4
44	Louisiana	11.4	8.5	16.0	9.1	6.1	13.4	75.2	85.1	61.2
45	Mississippi	11.6	8.6	14.9	9.4	6.5	12.6	75.0	85.4	63.8
46	Illinois	11.7	9.1	21.4	7.7	5.6	14.5	78.1	83.0	62.0
47	Delaware	11.8	9.5	19.7	7.5	5.7	13.1	77.3	83.7	56.9
48	Alabama	12.1	9.3	17.4	8.3	6.2	12.3	73.0	80.3	59.4
49	Georgia	12.3	9.0	18.4	8.4	5.8	12.9	72.7	79.7	60.3
50	South Carolina	12.8	9.0	18.8	9.2	6.5	13.4	67.3	77.3	51.5
51	Washington, D.C.	22.9	14.4	26.5	15.9	6.4	18.4	59.1	85.3	54.2
	United States	9.8	8.2	17.7***	7.0	5.7	13.5	75.5	78.9	59.9

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, "Advance Report of Final Mortality Data, 1989", Monthly Vital Statistics Report, Vol. 40, No. 8 (S), December 12, 1991

* In these states too few African American infants died to calculate an infant mortality rate.

** In these states too few African American infants were born low birthweight to calculate a rate.

*** Beginning in 1989, the National Center for Health Statistics tabulated race according to the race of the mother. In the past this had been done by race of the child. For the purpose of comparisons over time, the national rates used here are according to race of the child. The rates for each state are according to race of the mother.